



Old German Script

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This course is designed to give family history researchers who read little or no German and have had no experience with German vital records a basic working knowledge of such records.

Objective:

Patrons will be able to read basic vocabulary in old German script

One of the greatest challenges of reading records in German is deciphering the script. Even if the researcher can read German, that does not mean he or she will be able to read an old record. In addition to the script problem, each scribe had his own way of making letters, so that adds another level of difficulty. As with any skill, practice is necessary to gain a level of competence in reading old German records.

Old German script, sometimes called Gothic script, developed centuries ago and was used in various forms into the 20th centuries. It was also used in countries other than Germany, such as The Netherlands and in Scandinavia. Since it has not been the primary script in Germany since 1941, many Germans today cannot read it.

A short glossary:

Birth & baptism

geboren
Geborene
Geburten
Taufen
getauft

Marriage

Heiraten
geheiratet
Trauungen
getraut
Ehe
Copulierte

Death & burial

Tote
gestorben
Verstorbene
beerdigt
Beerdigungen

For a more extensive vocabulary list, see:

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Word_List

For an article on German language, including numbers, see:

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Language_and_Languages

For further reading:

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Germany_Civil_Registration#General_Historical_Background

Handwriting (you will find links to other classes and tutorials)

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Germany_Handwriting

Want to learn more? See this site:

FamilySearch Research Wiki: https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page

GERMAN ALPHABET TYPES

	GOthic	SCRIPT CAPITALS	SCRIPT SMALL LETTERS
A	A a	A A A A A	a n n n n
B	B b	B B B B	b
C	C c	C C C C	c c ch = ch
D	D d	D D D D	d D d dt = dt
E	E e	E E E	e n
F	F f	F F F	f ff = ff
G	G g	G G G G G	g g
H	H h	H H H H H	h j g
I	I i	I I	i
J	J j	J J J J J	j
K	K k	K K K K	k n b
L	L l	L L L L	l
M	M m	M M M M	m mm = mm
N	N n	N N N N	n nn = nn
O	O o	O O O	o n o
P	P p	P P P P P	p g y g
Q	Q q	Q Q	q
R	R r	R R R	r r
S	S s	S S S S S	s s ss = s sch = sch
T	T t	T T T	t t
U	U u	U U	u u u
V	V v	V V	v
W	W w	W W W W	w
X	X x	X X	x
Y	Y y	Y Y Y	y y
Z	Z z	Z Z Z	z z z

EXERCISE #1
LETTERS and TWO-LETTER COMBINATIONS

1. <i>or</i>	16. <i>m</i>	31. <i>f</i>	46. <i>J</i>	61. <i>v</i>
2. <i>j</i>	17. <i>z</i>	32. <i>h</i>	47. <i>7</i>	62. <i>if</i>
3. <i>l</i>	18. <i>R</i>	33. <i>L</i>	48. <i>n</i>	63. <i>6</i>
4. <i>A</i>	19. <i>q</i>	34. <i>L</i>	49. <i>n</i>	64. <i>L</i>
5. <i>z</i>	20. <i>L</i>	35. <i>v</i>	50. <i>n</i>	65. <i>h</i>
6. <i>i</i>	21. <i>f</i>	36. <i>L</i>	51. <i>no</i>	66. <i>no</i>
7. <i>f</i>	22. <i>h</i>	37. <i>f</i>	52. <i>no</i>	67. <i>no</i>
8. <i>y</i>	23. <i>a</i>	38. <i>7</i>	53. <i>r</i>	68. <i>f</i>
9. <i>n</i>	24. <i>p</i>	39. <i>R</i>	54. <i>i</i>	69. <i>f</i>
10. <i>v</i>	25. <i>u</i>	40. <i>Q</i>	55. <i>r</i>	70. <i>p</i>
11. <i>b</i>	26. <i>q</i>	41. <i>β</i>	56. <i>Lf</i>	71. <i>p</i>
12. <i>ir</i>	27. <i>n</i>	42. <i>L</i>	57. <i>q</i>	72. <i>y</i>
13. <i>m</i>	28. <i>J</i>	43. <i>f</i>	58. <i>n</i>	73. <i>no</i>
14. <i>ry</i>	29. <i>O</i>	44. <i>x</i>	59. <i>n</i>	74. <i>n</i>
15. <i>y</i>	30. <i>J</i>	45. <i>n</i>	60. <i>v</i>	75. <i>p</i>

Januar März Mai Juni
April September November
Juli August Oktober Dezember

geboren entaucht gebüxt
gebofen faufen gebofen
entaucht entaucht faufen

En gewat gewat
Gewinn gewinn entaucht
Logiklinen

gewat Wassergewat Toten
brennt Linsenlinen